

“Preserving History: Restoring a Pioneer-era Log Cabin in Munsinger Gardens, a Tribute to Minnesota’s New Deal Legacy”

The Government Rustic Style is seen throughout many of our state parks and gardens. This style developed during the New Deal era when most of the state parks and other public areas incorporated and celebrated the natural environment and used local materials to create borders, walkways, buildings and other features to blend into the natural landscape.

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The building methods and materials used are basic and inexpensive and are features of the Munsinger Gardens that make them unique to the landscape of the outwash plain created by the forming of the Mississippi River upstream from the ice dam further south in the state.

Next time you wander the pathways through the gardens stop, look and let your mind wonder at the native stones throughout the gardens and imagine working crews that were selecting the stones with care and an artful eye to the beauty of each one. Next, discover the wishing well and the log cabin.

The cabin is architectural feature that is reminiscent of the pioneer history of Minnesota. Children especially love visiting the wishing well and the log cabin. The log cabin was originally one of the tourist cabins that had been constructed in the southern portion of Riverside Park. In 1933 the cabins were later moved to other locations in St. Cloud to be used as warming houses during the Civilian Works administration (CWA) projects. The cabin in Munsinger Garden was originally used for the timekeeper of the WPA.

As you travel throughout Minnesota you will see many Depression era parks and gardens that incorporate this pioneer theme, and the log cabin style represents an idealized, romanticized glimpse into that chapter of Minnesota history.



Music in the Gardens

The 2024 music concerts are underway and this will be our 25th season. Save these Sunday dates with these performers on your calendar for next year.

June 9 – Dennis Warner and the D's

June 23 – Gathering Wool

July 7 – to be determined

July 21 – to be determined

August 4 – Monday Night Jazz (Memorial Butterfly Release event)

August 18 – to be determined

We invite once again the Quiet Oaks Hospice House to have their annual release of the butterflies. The butterfly release, which is open at all, will be held on August 4, 2024 at 2:00 pm, followed by the performing group "Monday Night Jazz" at 3:00 pm.

Art Fair in the Gardens

The Annual Summer Art Fair in the Gardens for 2024 will be held on Thursday, July 18th from 10:00 am – 6:00 pm.

Come and visit to see all the creative art throughout the beautiful gardens on both levels of Clemens Gardens off of Kilian Boulevard and Munsinger Gardens on Riverside Drive of St Cloud

The art fair features artists that are local and from around the state. Come browse and purchase some wonderful pieces of artwork from 60 plus artists. All types of different art forms such as paintings, drawings, pottery, jewelry, photography, wood, sculpture, literature, and fiber. The event will also have food vendors and music throughout the gardens and on stage along the river.

If you are interested in a booth to display and sell your artwork at the event, email us with photos of your art work to the art committee to be judged and any questions you may have to eventinquiries@munsingerclemens.com. This is a juried art fair.

Books for a Good Read this Winter

The Winter Garden: Celebrate the Forgotten Season

By Naomi Slade

Unlock your garden’s winter potential and see the beauty and promise of the colder months with award-winning garden designer and author Naomi Slade.

Get more out of your garden in winter by planning, creating and planting a beautiful outside space. There is so much to marvel at in a winter garden. As summer flowers fade and autumn winds strip trees bare, the season brings new delights to draw us outside, from the dusting of frost on bare seedheads and the long-reaching shadows cast by a December dawn to the joy of huddling up beside a fire pit to see in the New Year.

The Winter Garden is a celebration of the coldest season, with stunning photography that captures the very best that winter has to offer. Discover the bulbs that will bloom and the ornamental grasses that will dance in the winter breeze; create unique winter flower arrangements with cut stems and dried flowers; and learn how to design a garden with winter beauty at its heart with hard landscaping and evergreens.

Find new ways to enjoy your garden all year round. Create a welcoming space that encourages you to step outside and entertain or snuggle up with loved ones, even as temperatures drop. With tips on supporting wildlife over winter, the best cold-weather crops to grow that will both look and taste great, and “recipes” for creating winter container displays that will provide months of interest, this essential book will make you see your winter garden in a whole new light.

The Gardener’s Guide to Starting Seeds Indoors for Self-Sufficient Backyard Homesteaders

By Elizabeth Grove

This book is for anyone that is looking to get an early start on their garden. Want to be more self-sufficient, save money, and are ready to start seeds indoors.

In the book you will discover how fun it is to start seeds and create your own magic soil. How to easily

grow your plants from seeds all on the your own and successfully. All the most common mistakes made before you and how you can avoid them all. Be an even more self-sufficient backyard homesteader. If you are concerned with the cost of starting seeds indoors, rest assured you can successfully start seeds indoors with any sized budget. Everything you need to know about starting seeds indoors in just one day.

Starting seeds indoors seems like an intimidating task but after reading this fun and easy book you will have all the confidence and knowledge needed to successfully start and save your seeds for year to come.

Floret Farm’s Cut Flower: Grow, Harvest & Arrange Stunning Seasonal Blooms

By Erin Benzakein

This book is perfect for fans of gardening, flower arranging and decorating.

Celebrated flower farmer Erin Benzakein presents a beautiful gardening book and guide to growing, harvesting, and arranging gorgeous blooms year-round. First volume in the beloved Floret Farm books and gifts series!

Erin Benzakein is a florist farmer, leader in the locaflor farm to centerpiece movement, and owner of internationally renowned Floret Flower Farm in Washington’s lush Skagit Valley. In this stunning flower book, she provides readers with vital tools to nurture a stunning flower garden and use their blossoms and cut flowers to create show stopping arrangements.

Equal parts instruction and inspiration, this flower gardening book is overflowing with lush photography of magnificent flowers and breathtaking arrangements organized by season. It makes a beautiful gift for any occasion, for friends, loved ones, and gardening enthusiasts alike!

Find inspiration in this lush flower book through irresistible photos of Erin’s flower farm that s howcase exquisite blooms, tips for growing in a variety of spaces and climates, and step-by-step instructions for lavish garlands, airy centerpieces, and romantic florist design and décor for every season.

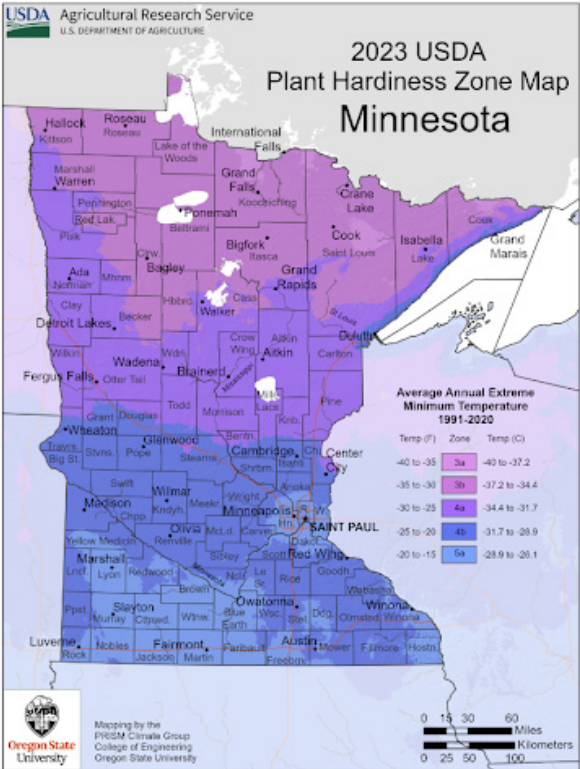


Changes in Minnesota Hardiness Zone Map

Updated Plant Hardiness Zone Map as of November 2023 reflect a Winter Warming Trend by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA). They released a new version of its Plant Hardiness Zone Map (PHZM), updating this valuable tool for gardeners and researchers for the first time since 2012.

It is available online at <https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/>. In addition to the map updates, the Plant Hardiness Zone Map website was expanded in 2023 to include a “Tips for Growers” section, which provides information about USDA ARS research programs of interest to gardeners and others who grow and breed plants.

Plant hardiness zone designations represent what’s known as the “average annual extreme minimum temperature” at a given location during a particular time period (30 years, in this instance). Put another way, the designations do not reflect the coldest it has ever been or ever will be at a specific location, but simply the average lowest winter temperature for the location over a specified time. Low temperature during the winter is a crucial factor in the survival of plants at specific locations.



Minnesota increased its zone 5a area, especially in the south and central parts of the state.

A huge chunk of Minnesota is now rated zone 4b (lowest temp: -25) and the area around St. Cloud has shifted from borderline zone 3 to a firm zone 4a.

Zone 5 has crept into much of the southernmost part of the state, which had previously been categorized as Zone 4. The core of the Twin Cities metro area is now squarely within Zone 5 as well.

In the northern part of the state, warmer temperatures are marching north and east. In 2012 much of the northern border region was classified as Zone 3a, but that’s no longer the case.

All told, the latest map suggests winter extreme lows in Minnesota are now between 5 and 10 degrees warmer than assumed back in the 1980s and 1990s.

When compared to the 2012 map, the 2023 version reveals that about half of the country shifted to the next warmer half zone, and the other half of the country remained in the same half zone.

We Need Volunteers!

Looking for Volunteers.....help plan our events and/or serve on the board of directors. Events are the music concerts and the art fair. The board meets once a month for the months of March through November.

Munsinger Clemens Botanical Society is a non-profit organization that plans events in the gardens as well as raising money to help support the beautiful gardens. Our volunteers are not gardening at Munsinger or Clemens Gardens but helping with the planning that goes into the events or helping the day of an event. Consider giving your time to this rewarding community organization. **Please contact us if you would like additional information. Either go to our website and click on Contact Us and leave a message or email eventinquiries@munsingerclemens.com.** We would love to hear from you!

